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Thank you for the invitation extended in your letter of 23 November to appear before your committee on the morning of 7 January 1960 to testify on the subject of space exploration. You understand, I am sure, that my competence in this field relates specifically to the space program of the USSR. I shall be happy to testify before you on this subject. Inasmuch as a considerable amount of the material available on the Soviet space program is still in the classified area, I would suggest that this hearing be in executive session.

I will be accompanied by our Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, Dr. Herbert Scoville.

DOCUMENT NO. 100-100000

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

IG/LBK/drm (8 December 1959)

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November 23, 1959

Executive Registry

11-9469

Honorable Allen W. Dulles, Director  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Upon the convening of Congress in January, it is the intent of our committee to begin a careful series of hearings designed to assess the contemporary urgency, the progress, and the needs of the American effort toward space exploration.

I deem it necessary to establish at the outset, and on the basis of the best information available to the Government, what importance our national space program may have as a factor in international affairs and in national security. In this regard, may I respectfully request that you appear before our committee as a witness on the morning of January 7, 1960.

You will understand, I am sure, that it is not our intent to question you on the space program per se, nor upon specific information which you may have concerning the space programs of other countries. It will, however, be of genuine value to our committee to have the space program placed in its proper perspective as a force, political or otherwise, relative to the security of the United States and to our standing in the international community. In this regard, your opinions, based upon knowledge resulting from your superior position, will be most helpful.

The committee will consider it an honor to hear from you on these matters or on any related ones you might care to discuss.

Very sincerely yours,



Overton Brooks, M.C.  
 Chairman